

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

AUGUST 7, 2012

Proclaim National Association of Community Health Centers Week from August 5 through August 11, 2012

Community Health Centers serve the primary health care needs of more than 20 million patients in over 8,000 locations across the United States. Health centers play a crucial role during tough economic times, providing affordable health services for millions of uninsured and newly jobless individuals. Health centers provide a unique and comprehensive approach to health care that saves money, improves patient health, and creates stable local jobs in the communities that they serve.

Community Health Centers save money every time an uninsured patient opts for an exam and treatment at the first sign of a health issue instead of waiting until a costly emergency room visit is the only option. Health centers also save money for those looking for work whose families could otherwise face poor health without care, or large medical debt.

Each health center takes a unique approach to meet the needs of the people in the surrounding community. This local approach to health care, combined with an innovative emphasis on comprehensive preventative care, generates \$24 billion in annual savings to the health care system – to taxpayers and private payers alike.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

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Community Health Centers in Los Angeles County, like those who are members of the Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers, share a common mission to advocate for health interests and expand access to quality and comprehensive health care for medically underserved people in the County. These health centers provide primary health care, including medical, dental and mental health services to the uninsured, underinsured, working poor, high-risk and vulnerable populations, serving all regardless of the ability to pay. The Community Health Centers throughout Los Angeles County should be applauded for their ability to provide high-quality care to an often complex patient population.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim the week of August 5 through August 11, 2012 as National Association of Community Health Centers Week in Los Angeles County by joining communities throughout the nation in recognizing the Community Health Centers who serve the primary health care needs of our residents.

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